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SUBJECT: EUROPEAN BRIEF O

FOR 2 JULY 1987.

FROM: DDI/O

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1. PERSIAN GULF: DEVELOPMENTS

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1. PERSIAN GULF: DEVELOPMENTS

IRAN HAS MOVED SILKWORM LAUNCHERS TO A SITE ON THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ. SOVIET FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VORONTSOV MET WITH AN IRANIAN COUNTERPART TUESDAY.

IRAN HAS MOVED TWO SILKWORM LAUNCHERS TO THE NORTHERNMOST OF TWO LAUNCHSITES AT KUHESTAK,

IRANIAN PRESIDENT KHAMENET, AFTER OBSERVING TRAINING FOR SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE UNITS IN CENTRAL IRAN YESTERDAY, THREATENED AN ATTACK ON US FORCES IN THE PERSIAN GULF SO DEVASTATING 'THAT NEITHER THE AMERICAN PUBLIC NOR THE CONGRESS WOULD EVER FORGIVE THEIR ADMINISTRATION,'' ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS.

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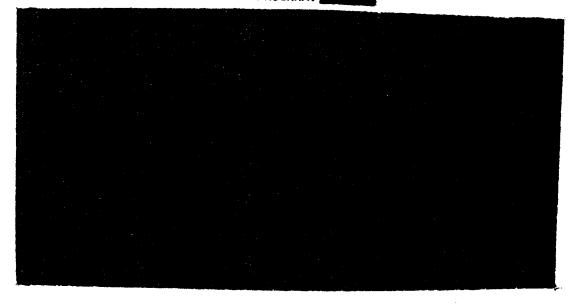
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THE IRANIANS DID NOT APPEAR TO BE PREPARING THE LAUNCHERS FOR TESTING OR FIRING, ALTHOUGH A SILKWORM PROBABLY COULD BE SET UP AND LAUNCHED WITHIN SEVERAL HOURS. THE PRESENCE OF A MISSILE, HOWEVER, IS STILL UNCONFIRMED, AND OTHER ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT HAS NOT BEEN SEEN. THIS NORTHERN SITE—AT ONE TIME ABANDONED BY THE IRANIAN NAVY—IS LESS DEVELOPED THAN THE SOUTHERN KUHESTAK SITE AND HAS UNDERGONE LITTLE CONSTRUCTION THIS YEAR.

KHAMENEI'S SPEECH PROBABLY WAS MADE FOR DOMESTIC PROPAGANDA, BUT TEHRAN MAY ALSO BE TRYING TO FOSTER A CRISIS ATMOSPHERE THEY HOPE WILL WEAKEN THE RESOLVE OF THE US AND OF THE GULF ARABS FOR THE REFLAGGING PROGRAM.





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